(c) whether Government are considering installation/conversion of all old telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges at Jodhpur ; and

(d) if so, what would be the time limit ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The information is laid on the Table of the House as per Annexure as [*See* Appendix CLXIII, Annexure No. 12].

(b) The department of Telecommunications has formulated a draft eighth five year plan for telecom development and by the end of the plan period it is envisaged to provide telephone connection practically on demand in rural and tribal areas and to contain the waiting period to within two years in large systems. Expansion plan are being drawn to fulfill these objectives.

(c) and (d) An exchange is normally replaced when it becomes life expired. In addition, in the draft 8th five year plan proposals of the Department of Telecommunications, it is proposed to replace all manual exchanges by March 1994 and replace small six electro-mechanical exchanges (MAX-III and line finder type MAX-II) by the end of 8th plan. Conversion to electronic exchanges will therefore occur progressively.

Construction of the Building for Post and Telegraphs, Jodhpur

704. SHRI B. L. PANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state ;

(a) what was the scheduled period for completion and the estimated cost of the main building of the Post and Telegraphs, at the initial stage, under construction at the town of Jodhpur (Rajasthan) ;

(b) the time by when the construction of this building is now likely to be completed and what would be the total cost of construction of this building;

(c) what are the reasons for delay, if any, and

(d) what action Government propose to take to avoid further delay in the completion of project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The scheduled period for construction of Head Post Office building at Jodhpur was two years, February, 1986 to April 1988, estimated cost being Rs. 82.60 lakhs.

(b) Construction of the building is likely to be completed by July, 1992. The cost of construction is now estimated at Rs. 85 lakhs.

(c) The following are the reasons for delay :—

(i) Change of the site at the request of the Railways.

(ii) Scarcity of water, due to drought conditions at initial stages.

(iii) Non-availability of levy cement.

(iv) Poor performance of the contractor.

(d) The Government is monitoring the progress of the construction work very closely.

महानगर टेलीफोन निगम लिमिटेड के कर्मचारियों के वेतन और भत्तों की निगमों में देय वेतन और भत्तों से बराबरी

705. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि महानगर टेलीफोन निगम लिमिटेड ने अपनी स्थापना के पांच वर्ष बाद भी अपने कर्मचारियों को निगमों के बराबर वेतन और भत्तों का भुगतान नहीं किया है;

(ख) इस संबंध में इस प्रयोजन के लिए गठित समिति का प्रतिवेदन कब प्राप्त हुआ था; और

(ग) उसे कार्यान्वित न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?